

SEP 7 4 2001

PATENT

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Date

9/13/01

Kevin S. Costanza

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Mark A. Epp et al.
Application No. : 09/888,059
Filed : June 22, 2001
For : APPARATUS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR FACILITATING
THE ACCURATE CALCULATION OF A STEAM-CARBON
RATIO IN A HYDROCARBON REFORMER

Art Unit : 3743
Docket No. : 130109.413
Date : September 13, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 through 1.98, applicants wish to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office the references set forth on the attached form PTO-1449 (copies of the cited references are enclosed). As to any reference supplied, applicants do not admit that it is "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, and specifically reserve the right to traverse or antedate any such reference, as by a showing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or other method. To satisfy the requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), applicants enclose herewith an English language Abstract of DE 41 19 172 A1, as obtained from the Dialog database. Although the aforesaid references are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with applicants' duty to disclose all information they are aware of which is believed relevant to the

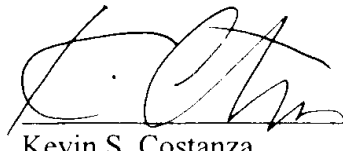
examination of the above-identified application, applicants believe that their invention is patentable.

Please acknowledge receipt of this Information Disclosure Statement and kindly make the cited references of record in the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Epp et al.

Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



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Enclosures:

Postcard

Form PTO-1449

Cited References (3)

English Language Abstract of DE 41 19 172 A1

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| FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80) | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | ATTY. DOCKET NO 130109.413 | APPLICATION NO 09/888,059 |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | APPLICANTS Mark A. Epp et al. | |
| | | FILING DATE June 22, 2001 | GROUP ART UNIT 3743 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|----|-----------------|----------|------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | AA | 3,768,977 | 10/23/73 | Brumfield et al. | 23 | 258.5 | |
| | AB | 5,733,447 | 03/31/98 | Makar | 210 | 220 | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | |
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| | AI | | | | | | |
| | AJ | | | | | | |

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | TRANSLATION | |
|--|----|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | YES | NO |
| | AK | DE 41 19 172 A1 | 01/02/92 | Germany (with Abstract) | | X |
| | AL | | | | | |
| | AM | | | | | |
| | AN | | | | | |
| | AO | | | | | |

OTHER PRIOR ART *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

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| | AP | |
| | AQ | |
| | AR | |

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s).